

REMARKS

The undersigned notes with appreciation that claims 1-30 have been allowed. This response addresses all formal matters and places the application in condition for allowance.

The office action provides acknowledgement of the applicant's claim of foreign priority. Attached hereto is a certified copy of Japanese Application 2002-334239 filed November 18, 2002, from which the above-identified application claims priority. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy with the notice of allowance is requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. First, Figure 9 was objected to due to the specific cross hatching used. This is corrected in the replacement sheets. Second, the drawings were objected to for use of the character "3" to identify different components. The attached replacement sheets now use the designator "3-1", "3-2", and "3-3" on Figures 1, 2 and 5. The endless belts illustrated in Figures 1A, 1B are each an embodiment of a contact member, hence the endless belts in Figures 1A, 1B and 5 were originally designated with the identical numeral "3". In addition, the specification has been corrected to reference designators "3-1", "3-2", and "3-3". Third, Figures 3 and 4 have been revised to include heavier shading so as to highlight the path of the endless belt.

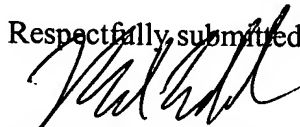
Claims 1-30 have been allowed, and none of these claims have been amended.

In view of the above, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees for the petition or for entry of this amendment to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041
5 (Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson P.C.).

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1A-5, and 9. Attached are “annotated drawings” showing the changes marked in red, and “replacement sheets”.

- 5 The “replacement sheets” include Figs. 1A-5, and 9, to replace the original sheets including Figs. 1A-5, and 9.



ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 1A

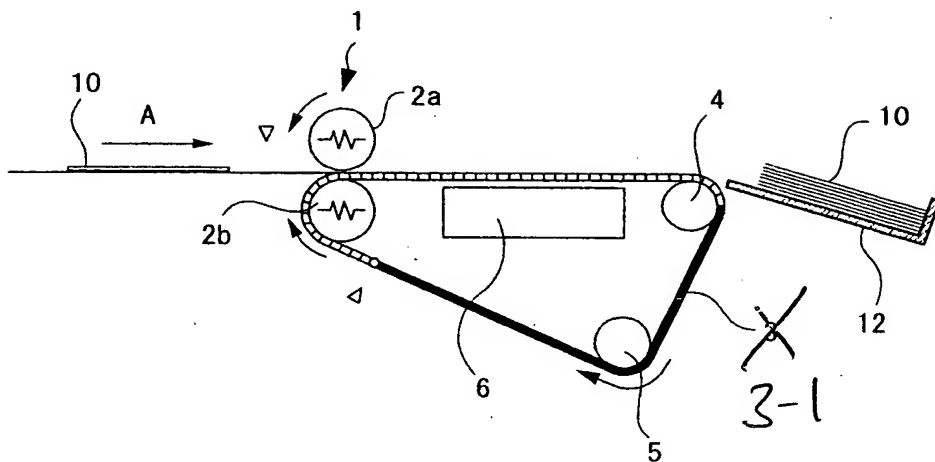


FIG. 1B

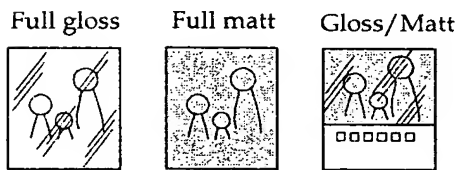
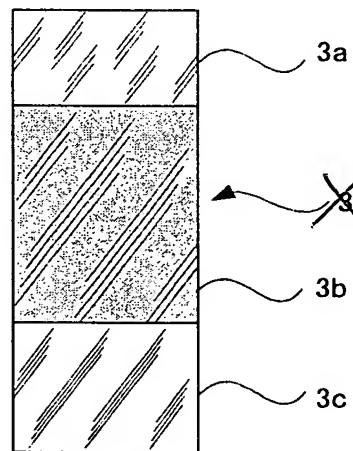


FIG. 1C



ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 2A

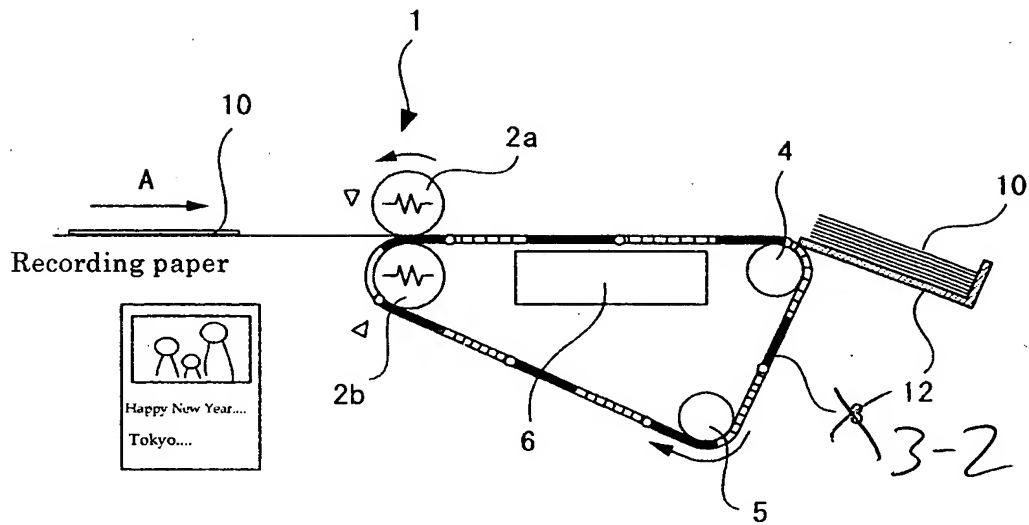
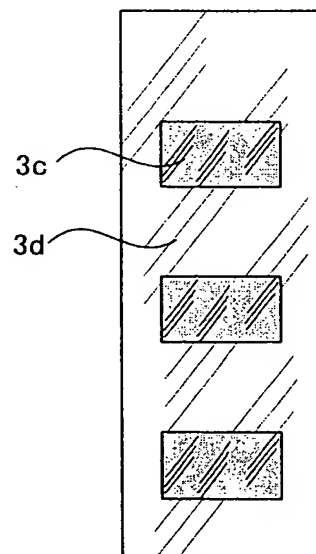


FIG. 2C

FIG. 2B



3-1

FIG. 3

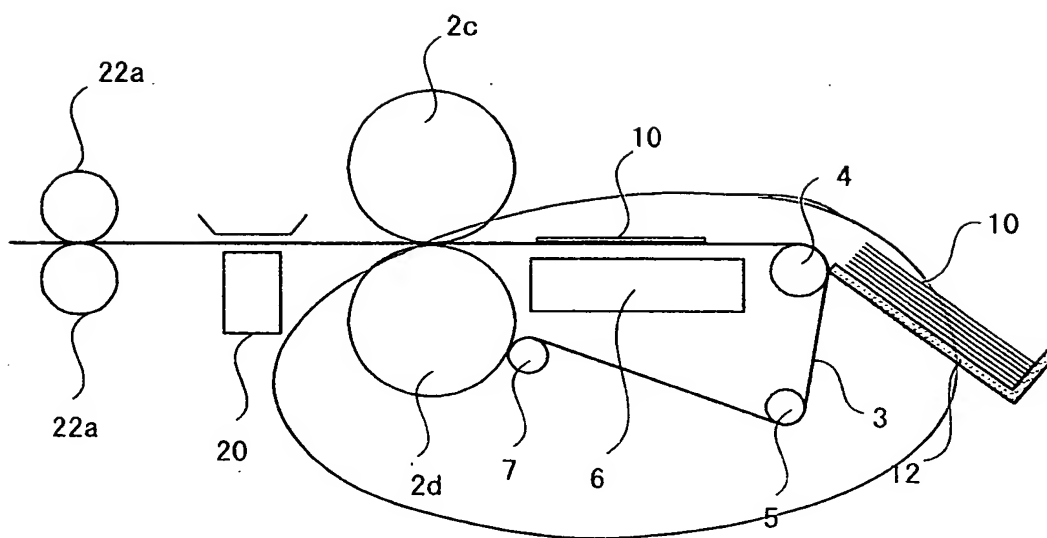


FIG. 4

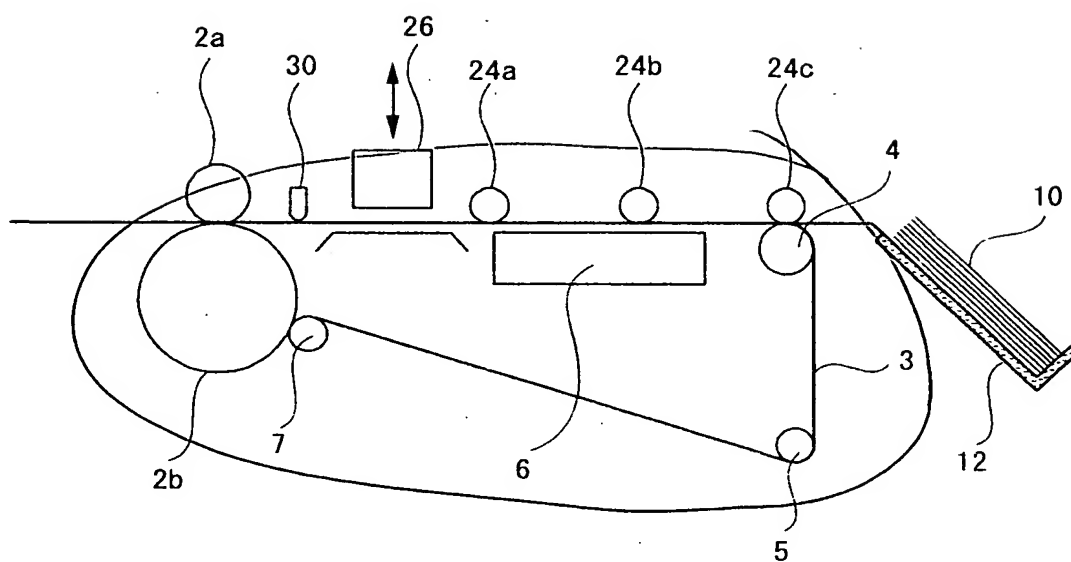


FIG. 5

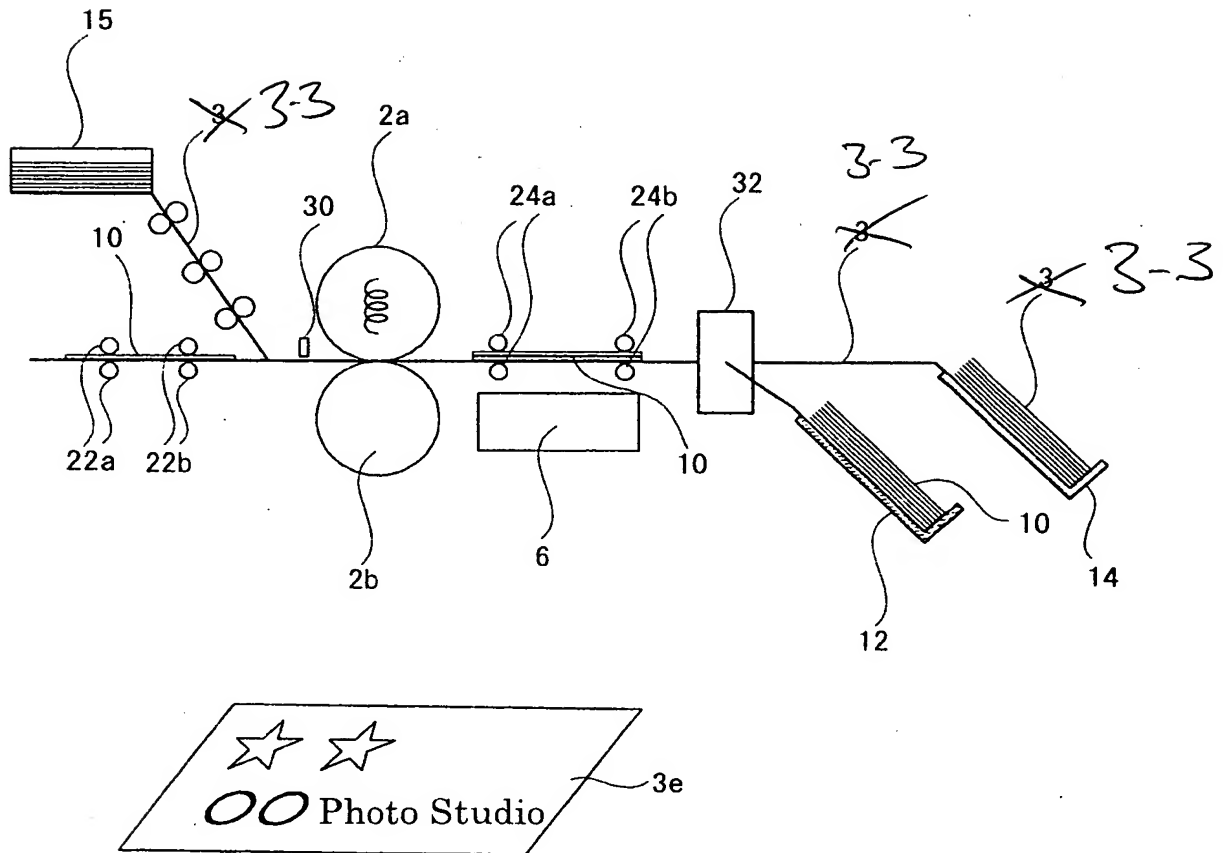


FIG. 9

